



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# The Coastal Program in New Jersey

## *Caring for Our Coastal Habitats*

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*The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program is to conserve healthy coastal ecosystems for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and people. The Program accomplishes this through cooperative partnerships that identify, restore, and protect habitat in priority coastal areas.*

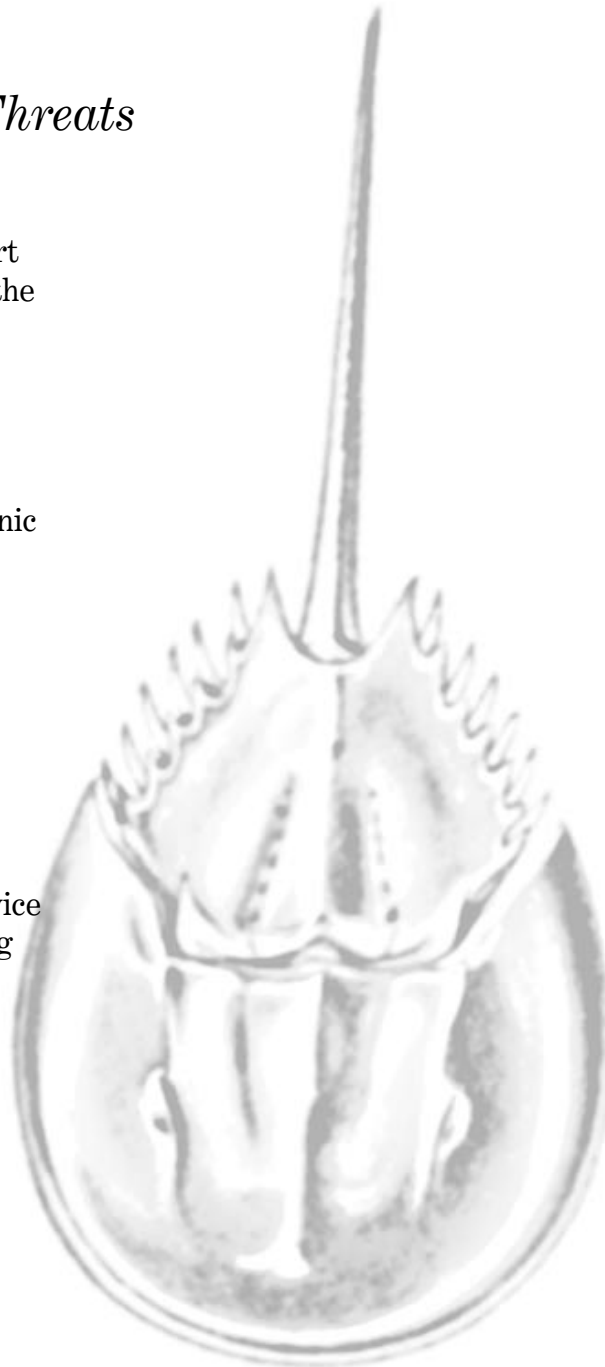
### *A Combination of Threats*

Coastal ecosystems comprise less than 10 percent of our Nation's land area, but support a much higher percentage of the Nation's wetlands; migratory songbirds; fish and shellfish; waterfowl; shorebirds; and threatened and endangered species. Coastal birds, fish, other animals, plants, and scenic spaces are under pressure from a combination of threats including: urbanization, contaminants, overfishing, oil spills, wetland loss, invasive species, nutrient over-enrichment, and fish barriers (e.g., dams).

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program is developing innovative partnerships with governments, businesses, and other conservation partners to identify, protect, and restore some of the most valuable fish and wildlife habitat in coastal regions around the country.

### *Program Facts*

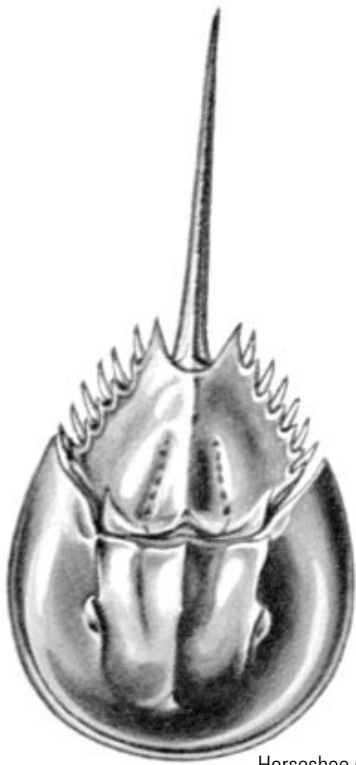
The Coastal Program focuses exclusively on the coastal watershed and applies an ecosystem-level approach to solving resource problems. The program focuses on strategic (rather than opportunistic) approach. The Coastal Program has been successful in a variety of habitat types from salt marshes along the ocean to riparian habitats up in the watershed. The Coastal Program is a non-regulatory, proactive program that relies on voluntary partnership building with a wide variety of partners including federal and State agencies, local and tribal governments, businesses, conservation organizations, and private landowners. The program funds projects on private and public lands that include habitat restoration and protection.



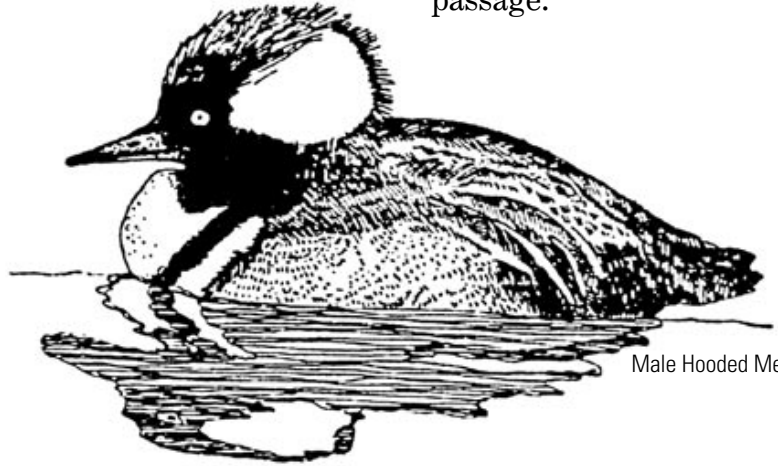
## *Accomplishments*

The Coastal Program has been successful because it has low administrative costs while providing a high level of on-the-ground benefit for fish and wildlife. Since 1998, the Coastal program in New Jersey has restored 660 acres

of coastal wetlands; restored 35 acres of coastal upland habitat; protected more than 70 acres through conservation easement or purchase; restored 4 miles of coastal riparian habitat; and reopened 12 miles of coastal streams for anadromous fish passage.



Horseshoe crab



Male Hooded Merganser

## *How to Become a Partner*

The Service's Coastal Program is working with our partners to develop a variety of effective non-regulatory solutions to habitat conservation problems. By working together and using innovative conservation tools in a strategic manner, the Coastal Program and its partners are protecting and restoring far

more high-priority coastal habitats for longer periods of time than they could achieve independently. The Coastal Program in New Jersey has been successful in protecting land in Strathmere through acquisition, building a fish ladder in Camden, and restoring coastal wetlands on the Great Egg

Harbor River near Tuckahoe. However, together we can accomplish much more to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitats along New Jersey's coast. If you are interested in this meaningful partnership program, please contact the Service's New Jersey Field Office.



Sanderlings

Photo, Gene Nieminen, USFWS